

the world financially literate. A sound grounding in economics is necessary for individuals to participate in an increasingly complex global economy. The need for innovative and effective methods for teaching about the global economy has never been greater, and Lisa effectively prepares Kokomo High School students for that environment. Lisa teaches senior-level Advanced Placement Macro- and Microeconomics, Economics, U.S. Government and Advanced Placement Government and Politics at Kokomo High School in my district.

Lisa's creative approach to the topic of economics tasks her students with running a mock corporation. The students develop written and graphic analyses of the effects of international political events, trade policies, and finance issues on their simulated corporations. The students then complete a mock stock market analysis based on their corporation's involvement in international trade and the effects of government policies. Finally, students participate in "International Day," which involves researching and preparing papers and presentations on a country and how government policies, cultural influences, and geography affect that Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing the service and commitment that Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison gives to her students on a daily basis. She is a fine example of the best the teaching profession has to offer.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONNA COVAIS

#### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, we live in a nation in which the mass media are so obsessed with the antics of celebrities like Michael Jackson and Donald Trump that we often forget that courage and heroism are all around us, that for many of our friends and neighbors each day is a difficult but victorious struggle against tough conditions.

I want to talk today about Donna Covais, a Vermont woman who represents what is best in American daily life. Seven years ago, Donna began to lose her sight as a result of diabetic retinopathy. A year later, she was blind. Of course, she was afflicted by despair: who wouldn't be, in those conditions?

But she did not succumb to that despair. Formerly a florist, she began taking courses at the Community College of Vermont, and through the intercession of a local business, Gardener's Supply Company, she was encouraged to begin, even though blind, a garden. What a success her foray into gardening has been! Blindness has not impeded her from making the world bloom—or from playing a vital role in our social community.

Donna Covais has won a local prize for the best use of gardening space in Burlington. She has drawn upon her experience and made a gardening video for the Vermont Association for the Blind. She has traveled to Virginia to speak before the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Donna has recently completed her degree program in horticultural therapy at Johnson State College; she's even done a practicum in the world be-

yond the safe harbors of college classrooms, at Essex High School in Vermont. A wife, a mother, a gardener, Donna has not let physical disability stand in the way of living a rich and fulfilling life, and giving much to the community in which she lives.

I began by saying that many of our friends and neighbors struggle with adversity and triumph over it. Let me conclude by pointing out that not only Donna, but her husband Joe, has been the master of his fate. For Joe too has suffered first deteriorating vision and then blindness, as was the case with Donna. Joe too has had to remake his life, which he has done by earning first a B.A. in psychology and the then an M.A.: he is now teaching Psychology at the Community College of Vermont, and is interested in counseling disturbed adolescents. He will be particularly qualified to bring them proof that facing life with courage, determination, and an openness toward the future can really work. Donna and Joe Covais are examples, I believe, of what is best in America and the American spirit, and I commend them for the example they have provided to all of us.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF THE MARLA BENNETT PEACE TILE GARDEN PROJECT

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, nearly two years ago, Marla Bennett, age 24, was one of the nine innocent victims of a terrorist attack at the Frank Sinatra cafeteria of the Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus in Jerusalem. Ms. Bennett was a recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who was studying to get her Masters at Hebrew University. Marla's tragic and needless death brought the horror of the Israeli conflict home to the Berkeley community and on May 9, 2004, the Berkeley Hillel will unveil its permanent tribute to her with the dedication of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. This is a fitting tribute to a young lady whose life was ripped from those who loved her by a senseless act of terrorism.

During her academic career at UC Berkeley, Marla's face was a familiar one among the Jewish student population as well as the Jewish community of the Bay Area. She was an active student organizer, a Hebrew school teacher, and resident of the Bayit, the Jewish student cooperative of UC Berkeley. Marla's personality, her enthusiasm, and her zest for Judaism and the Jewish way of life made her well-known within her community and she was the first recipient of the Berkeley Hillel award, Hineni, given to the student who best exemplifies selfless devotion to the Jewish Community by answering "here I am" whenever a task needs to be completed.

Marla's tragic death had a profound effect on the Jewish Community at Berkeley and led to many inspiring endeavors in honor of Marla. The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group at the Berkeley Hillel was revived to honor her memory and scholarship funds in Marla's name for students seeking to study Jewish education in Israel were established. As wonderful as these tributes were, Dana Blecher, the Cultural Arts

and Educational Programs Coordinator, for Berkeley's Hillel wanted to create a permanent memorial to this extraordinary individual who blessed our world for too short a time. Ms. Blecher envisioned the unused backyard of the Berkeley Hillel as an ideal space to construct a lasting tribute to the memory of Marla Bennett.

During the past year, Ms. Blecher has been instrumental in the creation of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project and I want to publicly commend her for incorporating so many aspects of the Berkeley and Bay Area community into the project. For example, she collaborated with Bay Area artist Jodi Gladstone, and invited the students of Berkeley Hillel to contribute sketches, poetry, and memories of Marla to be the foundation of the inspirational material for the creation and design of a tile project. Keeping with our Bay Area sensibilities, Dana contacted Jonathan Pilch, a student instructor in the subject of organic farming, and a UC Berkeley student, to prepare, recommend, and supervise the formation of the garden.

Mr. Speaker, friends of Marla's, as well as students who never had the opportunity to meet her, have come from across the country to help build the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. They all came to Berkeley to create a lasting tribute to a person whose life touched so many and was tragically cut short. This new space at the Berkeley Hillel, while dedicated to Marla, also will be presented in the name of peace and hope that there will be a time in the future of Israel when violence does not play such a tragic and terrifying role in the history of the Jewish state.

The Marla Bennett Tile Garden will serve as a place for recollection and reflection, an appropriate memorial to a person who took investigating her Judaism very seriously. As the expression says, "to live in the hearts of those who love you is to never die," and this wonderful memorial will allow the memory of Marla to continue to live on so that in the words of the Executive Director of Berkeley Hillel, Adam Weisberg, "Her name will be for a blessing."

#### HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT MARY FARRELL

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Administration. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Mary Farrell has been a strong leader in the health care community. She is currently the Vice President of Patient Care Services at Madera Community Hospital. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and is also a Registered Nurse. In her present position, all nursing and allied health care departments report directly to her. Mary always focuses on safe and professional health care delivery. Patients and families appreciate her open and playful way of taking chaos and replacing it with calmness and logical problem solving.